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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,091	12/21/2001	Holly Hogrefe	25436/2152	1719

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PALMER & DODGE, LLP
KATHLEEN M. WILLIAMS / STR
111 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02199

EXAMINER

HUTSON, RICHARD G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1652

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,091

Applicant(s)

HOGREFE ET AL.

Examiner

Richard G Hutson

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6,9-14,18,20-26 and 30-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-26 and 30-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6,9-14,18,20,22 and 36-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants amendment canceling claims 7 and 8 and amending claims 1, 3, 9, 14, 18 and 21 and adding new claims 36-51 in the paper of 1/30/2004, is acknowledged. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-14, 18, 20-26, and 30-51 are still at issue and are present for examination

Claims 23-26 and 30-35 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 6, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The rejection was stated in the previous office action. In response to this rejection applicants have cancelled claims 7 and 8 and added new claims 36-51 and traverse the rejection as it applies to claims 6, 18 and 20 and the newly added claims 36-51.

In their traversal applicants submit that they have cancelled claims 7 and 8 and thus the currently rejected claims are directed to an enzyme mixture comprising a first enzyme and a second enzyme, wherein said first enzyme comprises a DNA polymerization activity and said second enzyme is a mutant Pfu DNA polymerase comprising a 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a reduced DNA polymerization activity. Applicants submit that the specification does provide adequate description for an enzyme mixture comprising a first enzyme and a second enzyme, wherein said enzyme is either a wild type Pfu DNA polymerase or Taq DNA polymerase and a second enzyme which is a mutant Pfu DNA polymerase comprising a 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a reduced DNA polymerization activity.

Applicants reference the MPEP Section 2163 as to how the written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e. structure or other known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicants was in possession of the claimed genus.

Applicants submit that the present specification provides a functional description of the claimed mutants, i.e. having 3'-5' exonuclease activity and DNA polymerization activity. Applicants further submit that the present specification provides detailed description on the structure-function relationship of Pfu DNA polymerase in view of its exonuclease activity and polymerization activity. Applicants further argue that a detailed

Art Unit: 1652

description of the structure and function of Pfu DNA polymerase can be found among a number of US patents, which applicants have incorporated by reference. Applicants submit that the specification provides description for polymerization and exonuclease domains and examples of targeted amino acid residues within the above highly conserved polymerase domain motifs and a partitioning domain motif that can be mutagenized to decrease DNA polymerase activity and provide at least 9 amino acid positions for mutation.

Applicants submit that in view of above, and the level of skill in the art applicants specification describes the function of the mutant Pfu DNA polymerase and specifically defines the structural features associated with such function.

Applicants argument is not found persuasive because while applicants do describe the function of the mutant Pfu DNA polymerase, applicants do not define those adequately those structural features specific to the function of the mutant Pfu DNA polymerase such that applicants have defined the structure to function relationship of any Pfu DNA polymerase having a 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a reduced DNA polymerization activity.

Applicant is referred to the revised guidelines concerning compliance with the written description requirement of U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, published in the Official Gazette and also available at www.uspto.gov.

The rejection of claims 6, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as not reasonably providing enablement for an enzyme mixture comprising a first enzyme

Art Unit: 1652

which comprises a DNA polymerization activity and a second enzyme wherein said second enzyme comprises any mutant Pfu DNA polymerase which comprises a 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a reduced DNA polymerization activity as defined in applicants specification on page 9, lines 9-12, is hereby withdrawn based on applicants argument.

Claims 3, 14, 44-47, 50 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The rejection is stated in the previous office action, as it applied to claims 3, 8 and 14. In response to this rejection applicants have cancelled claim 8 and traverse the rejection as it applies to claims 3 and 14. Claims 44-47, 50 and 51 are included in the rejection for the reasons previously stated for claims 3 and 14.

Applicants submit that a deposit of the referred to bacterial DNA polymerases is not required because the DNA polymerases claimed are known in the art. Applicants further submit that the specification provides accession number for each of the claimed DNA polymerases, their encoding DNA as well as a corresponding reference. Applicants conclude that deposits are not required because one skilled in the art could make or use the invention defined in and commensurate with the claims without access to specific biological material.

Applicants argument is not found persuasive because while as stated in the MPEP Section 2402:

Art Unit: 1652

Biological material need not be deposited unless access to such material is necessary for the satisfaction of the statutory requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. 112. If a deposit is necessary, it shall be acceptable if made in accordance with these regulations. Biological material need not be deposited, *inter alia*, if it is **known and readily available to the public or can be made or isolated without undue experimentation**. Once deposited in a depository complying with these regulations, a biological material will be considered to be readily available even though some requirement of law or regulation of the United States or of the country in which the depository institution is located permits access to the material only under conditions imposed for safety, public health or similar reasons. Applicants argue that the polymerases of the rejected claims are known, however it remains as to whether these polymerases are **readily available to the public or can be made or isolated without undue experimentation**.

As previously stated, the DNA polymerases are not fully disclosed, nor have they been shown to be publicly known **and freely available**. The enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 may be satisfied by a deposit of the DNA polymerases or the bacterium from which they are isolated. Accordingly, it is deemed that a deposit of these polymerases or bacterium should have been made in accordance with 37 CFR 1.801-1.809.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 1652

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 10-14, 20, 22, 36, 37, 48 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,149) and Komori et al. (Protein Engineering, Vol 13. No. 1, pages 41-47, 2000).

The rejection was stated in the previous office action as it applied to claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-14, 18, 20-22, and repeated below for applicants convenience. Claims 36, 37, 48 and 51 are included in the rejection for the reasons previously stated for claims 1-3, 10-14, 20 and 22.

Barnes teach a number of thermostable DNA polymerase mutants and formulations of the taught DNA polymerases and other thermostable DNA polymerases including *Taq* DNA polymerase, which formulation of enzymes are capable of efficiently catalyzing the amplification by PCR of unusually long and faithful DNA products. Barnes specifically teach a formulation of thermostable DNA polymerases comprising at least one thermostable DNA polymerase lacking 3'-exonuclease activity and at least one thermostable DNA polymerase exhibiting 3'-exonuclease activity, wherein the thermostable DNA polymerase exhibiting 3'-exonuclease activity is a variant of the *Pfu* DNA polymerase wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said *Pfu* DNA polymerase has been diminished or inactivated.

Komori et al. teach the functional interdependence of DNA polymerizing and 3'-5' exonucleolytic activities in *Pyrococcus furiosus* (*Pfu*) Polymerase I. Specifically, Komori et al teach a number of *Pfu* DNA polymerase mutants which affect both the DNA polymerizing and/or the 3'-5' exonucleolytic activity in varying amounts. Komori et al. specifically teach mutant *Pfu* DNA polymerases in which the Asp 405 has been replaced by alanine, D405A, and glutamate, D405E. Each of these mutants have a greater than 100-fold and greater than 20-fold decrease, respectively, in the polymerizing activity of the mutant DNA polymerase, relative to the wildtype *Pfu* DNA polymerase. These mutants further have an approximate 10-fold decrease in the exonuclease activity. Thus each of the mutants created by Komori et al. have an approximate 50-fold and 2-fold increase, respectively, in the ratio of 3'-exonucleolytic activity to polymerizing activity relative to the wildtype *Pfu* DNA polymerase.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing would have been motivated to use either of the *Pfu* DNA polymerase mutants, D405A and D405E, taught by Komori et al. in the formulation taught by Barnes et al. to catalyze the amplification by PCR of unusually long and faithful DNA products. One would have been further motivated to include in the above formulation a PCR enhancing factor or an additive, as the purpose of the taught formulation is for PCR and package this formulation as a kit. The motivation for using the *Pfu* DNA polymerase mutants taught by Komori et al. comes from Barnes who teach that the thermostable DNA polymerase exhibiting 3'-exonuclease activity of the DNA polymerase formulation is preferably a variant of the *Pfu* DNA polymerase, wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said *Pfu* DNA

Art Unit: 1652

polymerase has been diminished or inactivated. The mutants taught by Komori et al. are such variants of the *Pfu* DNA polymerase, wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said *Pfu* DNA polymerase has been diminished or inactivated. The reasonable expectation of success is high as both Barnes and Komori et al. teach a number of thermostable DNA polymerases for use in the taught formulation, and Komori et al. specifically teach the *Pfu* DNA polymerase, wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said *Pfu* DNA polymerase has been diminished or inactivated. It is acknowledged that the mutant *Pfu* DNA polymerases taught by Komori et al. in addition to having a diminished or inactivated DNA polymerase activity also have a reduced 3'-exonucleolytic activity, however as the specific mutants taught by Komori et al. actually have an increase in the ratio of 3'-exonucleolytic activity to DNA polymerizing activity, they would remain useful in the formulation of Barnes, as the presence of the 3'-exonucleolytic activity is the reason for addition of the second DNA polymerase of the formulation. This is further supported by the teachings and claims of Barnes who teach that the ratio of the "polymerase without 3'-exonucleolytic activity" to the "polymerase with 3'-exonucleolytic activity, wherein the polymerase activity is reduced or diminished" is high (i.e. from 10 to 2000 units to 1 unit), suggesting that the only functional property of the second polymerase that is important is the presence of the 3'-exonucleolytic activity, and that based on the ratios of the taught polymerase formulations, a slight decrease in the level of 3'-exonucleolytic activity can be accounted for by adjusting the ration of polymerases to remain within the level suggested by Barnes.

Art Unit: 1652

In response to this rejection, applicants have cancelled claims 7 and 8 and amended claims 1, 3, 9, 14, 18 and 21 and traverse the rejection as it applies to the newly amended claims.

Applicants submit applicants interpretation of what each of the references, Komori et al. and Barnes et al. teach and applicants submit that it is essential for the second DNA polymerase of the present invention to have a reduced DNA polymerase activity as required in claims 1-3, 1'0-14, 18 and 20-22. Applicants submit that neither Komori et al. or Barnes et al. teach the importance of having a reduced DNA polymerization activity.

Applicants argument, particularly as it applies to applicants interpretation of the reference of Barnes et al. is not found persuasive as applicants attention is drawn to claim 8 of the patent of Barnes et al. which recites "A formulation of thermostable DNA polymerases as set forth in claim 6, wherein the at least one thermostable DNA polymerase exhibiting 3'-exonuclease activity is selected from the group consisting of Pfu polymerase from *Pyrococcus furiosus*, the Vent DNA polymerase from *Thermococcus litoralis*, a variant of the Pfu DNA polymerase wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said Pfu DNA polymerase has been diminished or inactivated, or a variant of the Vent DNA polymerase wherein the DNA polymerase activity of said Vent DNA polymerase has been diminished or inactivated". Thus Barnes specifically teach an embodiment of the claimed formulation encompasses a Pfu DNA polymerase which has 3' exonuclease activity while its polymerase activity is diminished or inactivated.

Art Unit: 1652

Applicants argument that Barnes et al. does not provide any teaching as to why a Pfu DNA polymerase mutant with diminished or inactivated DNA polymerase activity is desired is acknowledged however not found relevant as Barnes teach the use of such a mutant Pfu DNA polymerase, regardless of motivation as taught by Barnes et al. or the instant inventors.

Applicants argument as it applies to claims 6, 9, 18, 21, 40, 44, 49-50 and their dependent claims, that the first enzyme is limited to an *exo+* DNA polymerase and Barnes et al. do not teach or suggest the combination of an *exo+* DNA polymerase with another *exo+* DNA polymerase is found persuasive with respect to these claims and these claims have been removed from the previous rejection.

Thus claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-14, 20 and 22 are made obvious over Barnes et al. and Komori et al.

Double Patenting

Applicants comments in response to the previous statutory type double patenting rejection regarding the canceling of the subject matter of claims 1-3, 6, 9-11, 13-15, 19 and 21-23 of copending application 10/079,241 are acknowledged, however it is further acknowledged that applicants along with the cancellation of claims 1-3, 6, 9-11, 13-15, 19 and 21-23 of copending application 10/079,241, added new claims 64-87 drawn to overlapping subject matter, thus necessitating a provisional nonstatutory double patenting rejection.

Art Unit: 1652

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-14, 18, 20-22 and 36-51 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 64-70, 75-87 of copending Application No. 10/079,241. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claimed enzyme mixtures of the instant application, comprising a first enzyme and a second enzyme wherein said first enzyme comprises a DNA polymerization activity and said second enzyme is a mutant Pfu DNA polymerase having a mutation at an amino acid position selected from the group consisting of D405, Y410, T542, K593, Y595, Y385, Y387, and G388 and those further limited claims dependent thereon are anticipated by and thus obvious over the corresponding claims of copending Application No. 10/079,241, drawn to a enzyme mixture comprising a first enzyme and a second enzyme wherein said first enzyme is an Archaeal DNA polymerase and said second enzyme is a mutant Archaeal DNA polymerase having a mutation at an amino acid position selected from the group consisting of D405, Y410,

Art Unit: 1652

T542, K593, Y595, Y385, Y387, and G388 and those further limited claims dependent thereon.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 1652

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard G Hutson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0930. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard G Hutson, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652

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Application/Control Number: 10/035,091

Page 15

Art Unit: 1652

3/25/2004